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The Evil Eye, an Account of This Ancient and Widespread Superstition. By Frederick Thomas Ellworthy.

There is nothing, in this voluminous and elaborate work, that authorizes a discussion of it in a geographical Bulletin. It is exclusively ethnologic in character and contents. Profusely illustrated, it bears testimony of much labour in collecting both objects and information and also to considerable literary research. We can only state, by way of introduction, that the author ascribes to the well-known popular dread of the *Mal Occhio* (so universal in Italy) a great and almost controlling influence on the formation of popular and religious beliefs all over the earth and finds it represented in the art of the most cultured as of the rudest groups of mankind. For ethnologic study it is certainly well to have and to peruse the book attentively. It is but natural and legitimate that the author should draw most of his material from his own country, Great Britain, the more so as its country people have preserved abundant remnants of ancient ways and traditions of very old customs. He might have done well, however, had he devoted more attention to other European peoples, for instance, to the Germans, among whom as much, if not more, old material has been preserved in popular lore as anywhere else. Of primitive peoples still extant, the author knows but very little, and America especially is treated with a particular scarcity of attention.

It is well to quote from the Preface what we look upon as the keynote of the book. "Long ago while noting the peculiarities of my native dialect I became fully aware that the belief in a personal evil influence was not only prevalent, but almost universal. Familiarity with the modes of thought of country folk convinced me that every obscure ailment and every unaccountable misfortune was habitually considered to be a 'wisht thing.'"

A. F. B.

Erythräa und der Ägyptische Sudan. Auf Grund eigener Forschung, an Ort und Stelle, dargestellt von Professor Dr. E. Dagobert Schoenfeld. iv and 245 pp., 20 Illustrations. Dietrich Reimer (Ernst Vohsen), Berlin, 1904. (Price, M. 8.)

The author landed at Massaua, the capital of the Italian colony of Eritrea, and made his way, chiefly by camel transport and Arab escort, through that colony to Kassala and through the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan by way of El Fasher, Gadâref, Wâd-Médani on the Blue Nile, and down that river to Khartum. He chose an overland route to Khartum that no tourist has followed throughout; and the wide region he traversed had not been described since the advent of the Mahdi closed it to the world for many years. He made notes on various aspects of these regions, observed the condition and life of the inhabitants, and collected meteorological data. He also wrote chapters on the history of the Italian colony and of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan.

His book is thus a geographico-historical study—a description of what he saw in two regions, each distinct from the other in its political control; and he follows these descriptions with statements of the historical influences that have helped to bring about their present stage of evolution. The time was too short for thorough geographical observation and treatment, but the book is valuable as a graphic sketch of the present conditions in Eritrea and as the only large contribution to our knowledge of that part of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan between Eritrea and Khartum since the Mahdist régime.